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February 24, 2017

Senator Chuck Grassley
Chairman
United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

I write in support of the nomination of Rod Rosenstein to be the next Deputy Attorney General of the United States. I write this letter from the perspective of having been the longest serving Deputy Attorney General since the early 1950s and believe I have an understanding of the requirements of that office. Rod brings with him the knowledge, skill, experience, and wisdom that is required for this job. He also brings an understanding of, and respect for, the important role the Department of Justice occupies in our government -- the need for it to not only enforce the laws, but to also maintain a level of independence that enables it to have credibility in the eyes of our citizens. Rod will make an excellent Deputy Attorney General.

I had the privilege of knowing and working with Rod starting from the time he first came to the Department of Justice in 1990. As a part of the very select Attorney General's Honor Graduate Program, Rod started working in the Public Integrity Section of the Department's Criminal Division after completing a judicial clerkship. As his supervisor, I immediately recognized him to be a very talented and gifted attorney. Even at an early age, he exhibited the sound judgment and careful thought that was necessary to handle the very sensitive public corruption cases that were prosecuted by the Section.

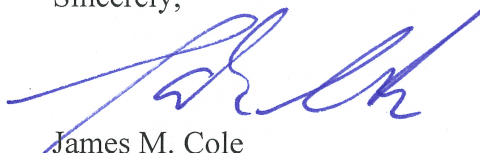
I followed Rod's career after that time, seeing how he continued to serve our nation in a number of roles at the Department, ultimately becoming the US Attorney for the District of Maryland at a time when that office needed new leadership. While he was appointed to this position by President Bush, he performed so well, and was so widely respected, that when President Obama came into office he asked Rod to continue in his role as the US Attorney. Please understand, this is quite unusual and a true testament to Rod's unique abilities.

When I assumed the position of Deputy Attorney General in 2011, it was an opportunity to once again work with Rod. What I found was that he got even better with age. He was well respected in the US Attorney community, was a valuable resource for my office when truly difficult and sensitive matters needed to be handled well, and was an outstanding representative of the Department and what it stood for.

The position of Deputy Attorney General is critical to the functioning of the Department of Justice. It has at times been called the hardest job in the Government. Not only does the Deputy Attorney General direct the day-to-day operations of the entire Department of Justice, but virtually every issue that arises throughout the entire federal government comes to that office in need of sound, sober counseling and advice. There are few people I can think that are as well qualified as Rod for this important job.

Thank you for allowing me to express my views on Rod's qualifications. If I can provide the Committee with any additional information or views, I am happy to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Cole', is written over the printed name.

James M. Cole
Former Deputy Attorney General